This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. A method of providing means for detecting counterfeit articles and/or for detecting unauthorised tampering of articles/article packaging, the method comprising the steps of:

i) determining one or more properties of an at least one primary label or of an article to which at least one primary label is, or is to be, attached; and

ii) encoding at least one secondary label with information about the one or more properties determined in step (i), such that there exists an association between the information contained in the or each secondary label and one or more of the properties of the or each primary label, or of an article to which the or each primary label is attached, wherein the or each primary label is provided on an article contained within a container holding a plurality of articles, and wherein the secondary label is provided on the outside of the container.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~property~~ one or more properties determined in step (i) is the information encoded by one or more primary labels provided on ~~the~~ consumer product(s) packed at predetermined positions within the container.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the or each primary label acts as a presence indicator.

4. A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~property~~ one or more properties determined in step i) represents ~~the~~ positional properties of the or each primary label, or the article to which the or each primary label is, or is to be, attached.

5. A method as claimed ~~in any preceding claim~~ claim 2, wherein the ~~property~~ one or more properties determined in step i) represents the information encoded by the or each primary label.

6. A method of detecting counterfeit articles and/or detecting unauthorised tampering of articles/article packaging, the method comprising the steps of:

i) determining one or more given properties of ~~an~~ at least one primary label, or ~~the~~ an article to which at least one primary label is attached, the or each primary label being provided on an article contained within a container holding a plurality of articles;

ii) determining ~~the~~ information encoded by ~~an~~ at least one secondary label, the secondary label being provided on the outside of the container; and

iii) checking for the existence of a predetermined association between the information determined in steps i) and ii).

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ~~property~~ one or more properties determined in step (i) is ~~the~~ information encoded by one or more labels provided on ~~the~~ consumer product(s) packed at predetermined positions within the container.

8. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ~~property~~ one or more properties determined in step i) ~~is the~~ comprises positional properties of the or each primary label, or the article to which the or each primary label is attached.

9. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ~~property~~ one or more properties determined in step i) ~~is the~~ comprises information encoded by the or each primary label.

10. A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 6, wherein the or each primary label comprises remotely detectable magnetic material.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said magnetic material comprises low coercivity, high permeability magnetic material.

12. A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ information is obtained in step (i) by means of a reading device which employs an interrogation field comprising an ac field arranged so as to be parallel with ~~the~~ a preferred axis of permeability of the magnetic material.

13. A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 6, wherein ~~the~~ information determined in step (i) is obtained by means of a reading device which employs an interrogation field comprising a high amplitude, low frequency scanning field and a low amplitude, high frequency field.

14. A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 6, wherein the or each primary label is capable of being read by means of a reading device which operates in accordance with non-contact interrogation techniques.

15. A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 6, wherein the or each primary label is capable of being read by means of a reading device operating in accordance with techniques which do not require a line of sight between the reading device and the or each primary label.

16. A system for detecting counterfeit articles and/or detecting unauthorised tampering of articles/article packaging, the system comprising at least one primary label provided on an article contained within a container holding a plurality of articles, and at least one secondary label provided on the outside of the container, wherein there exists an association between ~~the~~ information contained in the or each secondary label and one or more of the properties of the or each primary label.

17. A system as claimed in claim 16, wherein information contained in the or each secondary label is related to information encoded by the label attached to at least one article packaged at a predetermined location within the container.

18. A system as claimed in claim 16, wherein ~~the~~ information contained in the or each secondary label represents ~~the~~ positional properties of the or each primary label, or the article to which the or each primary label is attached, within the container.

19. A system as claimed in claim 16, ~~17 or 18,~~ wherein there exists an association in the data content of the or each primary label and the or each secondary label.

20. A system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 16 to 19~~ claim 16, wherein the or each primary label comprises remotely detectable magnetic material.

21. A system as claimed in claim 20, wherein said magnetic material comprises low coercivity, high permeability magnetic material.

22. A system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 16 to 21~~ claim 16, wherein the primary ~~information carrier~~ label is provided with a simpler code than the secondary ~~information~~ label, and wherein the secondary ~~information~~ label is encoded with information about ~~the~~ information contained in the primary ~~information~~ label.